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EFFECT OF SULPHATE OF QUINIA ON THE SPLEEN.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WHILE following the clinics of M. Piorry, at La Pitié, our attention was called to some observations made by this distinguished physician with regard to the action of the sulphate of quinia upon the spleen in cases of intermittent fever. A careful and prolonged examination of the cases which appeared from time to time in his wards, served to convince us of the truth of Piorry's statements. It is thought that some brief notes of a few cases cannot fail of being interesting to the readers of the Journal.

CASE I., æt. 18, entered the Hospital with intermittent fever of the quotidian type, on the 14th. All the organs were healthy except the spleen, the length of which was seven inches and ten lines, breadth five inches five lines. On the morning of the 15th 3 ss. sulph. quinia was administered; twenty minutes after, percussion demonstrated that the hypertrophied organ had been reduced to six inches six lines in length, and to four inches four lines in breadth. The paroxysms were diminished in intensity, but persisted until the 18th; the spleen preserving its reduced volume. 19th. ðij. sulph. quinia; twenty minutes after, the spleen presented only three inches five lines in length, and three inches three lines in breadth. From this time patient had no more attacks; the spleen preserved its volume, and on the 24th he went out of the Hospital cured.

CASE II., æt. 19, constitution robust, entered on the 9th, with a quotidian intermittent of three weeks' duration. At the period of his entrance the spleen measured six inches six lines in length. 3 i. sulph. quinia in two doses; in a few minutes it was reduced to five inches five lines in length, but after this it was impossible to obtain any further reduction, although doses as large as the above were administered. Vesicatories upon the splenic region, with general bleeding, had no more effect. Piorry thought that the sulph. quinia had not been given in sufficient quantity, and accordingly on the 21st, 9 A. M., 3 i. at a single dose; twenty minutes after, the spleen measured but three inches six lines in length, instead of five inches five lines. This large dose occasioned no difficulty whatever. The spleen preserved its volume, and on the 26th the patient was discharged cured.

CASE III., æt. 23, quotidian, entered 20th, after having had four paroxysms. Spleen five inches five lines in length, and four inches four lines broad. Other organs normal. 23d. 3 i. sulph. quinia in one dose. In ten minutes spleen reduced to four inches seven lines in length, and

three inches six lines transversely. From this day the fever ceased. 24th. $\text{Sij. sulph. quinia}$; reduction in ten minutes, three inches six lines by three inches three lines. 27th. Discharged cured.

CASE IV., *æt.* 30, entered 6th. All the organs healthy except the spleen, which measured four inches seven lines by two inches six lines. 7th. Twelve minutes after the administration of Sij. of the salt, the spleen was reduced to four inches in length by two inches three lines in breadth; the heat and fever ceased. 8th. A dose of 3 ss. ; in ten minutes spleen measured but three inches three lines, by two inches three lines. Discharged cured on the 10th.

The foregoing summary of a few cases, although drawn up with too much brevity, will suffice to illustrate this recent discovery.

The urine has been repeatedly analyzed, and with nearly the same results; for example, ten minutes after a dose of $\text{3 i. sulph. quinia}$ had been administered to a patient, 3 iv. of his urine was found by M. Bourchart to contain *ss. gr.* of the alkaloid. The hypertrophy of the organ remains always the same in the different stages of the fever.

Piorry contends that "the fever is not the cause, but the manifestation, of the pathological condition of the spleen." In support of this theory he refers to several cases, from which we select the following:—"Two persons, after having fallen violently upon the left side, experienced in the region of the spleen a permanent pain, after an interval of fifteen days in one case, of six days only in the other—beginning by an access of fever of the quotidian type in the first case, by a quartan in the second. At their entrance into the Hospital both presented a daily paroxysm very complete. In both the pain in the splenic region augmented on pressure, especially in the inferior part of the circumference of the organ. A bleeding in one case was sufficient to remove all the symptoms; the sanguineous depletion dissipated the pain in the other case, and reduced almost entirely the febrile accessions, which did not disappear completely until after the administration of Si. sulph. quinia . The first was cured in 48 hours, the second in four days. We see here paroxysms follow the sufferings of the spleen in a very evident manner; on the other side, we have found that this organ augments very sensibly by a repetition of the paroxysms. Are we not right in concluding, that things occur in an analogous manner in marsh fever, and that in both cases the fever is not the cause, but the result of the disease of the spleen?" He teaches also that if the remedies are directed to this organ so as to reduce it to its normal volume, there is no danger of a relapse, and that there can be no radical cure unless this be effected.

We might here remark, that though the observations of M. Piorry seem to prove that the spleen is hypertrophied in all intermittents, yet there are many eminent pathologists who have entertained a contrary opinion. M. Bailly, for example, in thirty-three post-mortem examinations of persons who died from this affection, found only two cases in which the spleen was enlarged. Whatever may be the fact with regard to this, or to the theory of M. Piorry, of this much we are certain, that the administration of the sulphate of quinia in large doses causes an almost instantaneous reduction of the spleen when enlarged.

The whole subject may not be unworthy the notice of American practitioners who reside in those districts in which intermittents prevail. It would be interesting to observe if bleeding in the cold stage, the use of the cornus Florida, eupatorium perfoliatum, and the various other remedies employed in this disease, produce the same effect.

To those who are unaccustomed to percussion, it may seem impracticable to measure any of the viscera with the precision indicated above. With the ordinary method this is at least difficult; but if auscultatory percussion be employed as invented by Drs. Camman and Clark, of New York, the spleen and many other internal organs can be measured with almost mathematical accuracy.

D. J. M.

Paris, September, 1841.

MULTIPAROUS LABOR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The following case of multiparient labor, which occurred in my practice about two weeks since, you are at liberty to publish in your Journal, if you consider it worthy of notice.

I was called obstetrically to attend Mrs. P., who is an uncommonly robust, healthy woman, and the mother of several children; but found, on my arrival, that she had just given birth to a child of the medium size, having had very few premonitory symptoms of such an event. I immediately proceeded to remove the placenta, but, on examination, found the head of another child favorably presenting, enveloped in another placenta, the membranes of which were unbroken. The pains, however, had ceased, and as no untoward symptoms occurred, I suffered the patient to remain in that situation for about three hours, when the pains returned and she was soon delivered of a second child. On making an examination again, I directly discovered, to my astonishment, the head of a third child presented (equally as favorably as the second), of which she was also soon delivered. All three of the children are still alive and doing well; their aggregate weight is about twenty pounds. The mother was able, on the second day after her confinement, to walk across the room, and still remains remarkably comfortable.

L. N. BEARDSLEY.

Milford, Ct., Jan. 13th, 1842.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

It is a fact with which all who are at all conversant with this subject are familiar, that within the last few years the sciences of medicine and surgery, particularly the latter, awakening from their long slumber, and shaking from them the drowsiness and inactivity in which they had been wrapped, have in the rapidity with which they have progressed towards perfection, equalled, if not surpassed, the glorious strides which have been made

by many of the other sciences; and which have so remarkably stamped the present as specifically an age of improvement. Few stronger proofs can be cited in favor of the existence in man of a capacity formed for constant progress, than the history of these sciences during the present century; by which so vast an amount of mental as well as physical suffering has been ameliorated. Look back some few years and trace the history of some of the most important and valuable medicines now considered indispensable in general practice, and we shall find that the date of their admission into the Pharmacopœia is very recent. Quinia, creosote, iodine, morphia, and others which it is unnecessary to mention in this place, are among the acquisitions of the present century. Take the first-mentioned article alone; if we could accumulate the number of instances in which inestimable relief has been obtained from this single preparation, how immense would be the aggregate.

Again, examine the history of surgery, and we shall find that the rapid improvement which has taken place in this branch of the profession in the same space of time, leaves far in the back ground all that can be said in favor of the former. The facilities now afforded for anatomical observation, morbid or otherwise, may be said to be the root from which results of such vast importance have sprung. Of the true value of the harvest yet to be gathered from the same source, no correct estimate can be formed. They are indeed true benefactors, who have forwarded by their personal influence and efforts this species of scientific research. In those complaints particularly which have involved a displacement of different portions of the human frame, and which since the world began have been considered as beyond the reach of human aid, or been subjected to prolonged, and for the most part unscientific treatment, how extensive is the field of improvement which presents itself.

Resources hitherto undreamed of even by the most scientific, have been developed and grown to what now seems perfection. Those whom nature, less bountiful than to the generality of mankind, has not gifted with the full development, or right proportion of all the different organs (in one of the least of which the slightest imperfection is often productive of a most serious evil) may, in instances exceedingly numerous, by application to these resources find the deficiency made good.

There is a large fissure in the roof and back of the mouth; portions of the ossa palati, velum palati and uvula are wanting; parts of the vocal apparatus indispensable to the utterance of distinct sounds. By a modern improvement in the art, requiring, to be sure, great *surgical* skill and assiduity, a new membrane is formed, a new palate is produced, and thus is perfected that which originally had been created imperfect. Disease, caries of the bones, or some other cause, has deprived a fellow creature of an organ indispensable to his comfort, and without which he feels himself to be an object calculated to fill all around him with disgust. Here is an example (an extreme case, it may be said) of the mental torture already alluded to. How much more agonizing is the pain which the mind of a person so situated has to endure, than any physical evil or discomfort to which it may give rise, or than the knife of the operator can inflict. But to return to my subject; a new nose is formed, and the

person, rendered feeble by confinement to which a natural susceptibility to his personal appearance had subjected him, but principally the effect of the very keenness of his feelings on this point, receives renewed health by a return to those sources of enjoyment from which he has so long been debarred, and in consequence of the spring which his mind thus receives when this insupportable burden is removed.

By recent improvements and inventions the lame are made to walk ; those who have cast side-long glances all their lives, now look their fellow creatures straight in the face ; and the spinal vertebræ, curved from their natural position, are replaced.

By the introduction of tenotomy, a branch entirely unknown thirty-five or forty years since, new and unheard-of relief is afforded to that large class of sufferers whose cases were, but for this remedy, hopeless, and who have in past times been forced to drag with them from their cradles to their graves a species of malformation (reference is here made to that variety included under the generic term of talipes or club-feet), often extremely painful, and always, to say the least of it, inconvenient and uncomfortable, and so conspicuous in its situation as to render futile all attempts to disguise it from the observation and remark of others. Frequently the mere division of a single tendon, accomplished with trifling pain or loss of blood, would have restored a young and beautiful female to society which she was otherwise formed to adorn, and to the happiness of domestic ties ; or a man to a life of activity and energy. But this was not their good fortune ; they were born in times antecedent to this discovery, and consequently became aware of the fact that in most cases their deformity would end only with their lives.

The dividing of tendons and muscles in the back, a still more recent application of this science, has been attended with a success sufficient, one would think, to serve as an encouragement to renewed and often-repeated undertakings of the same nature. Where, as has been the case in one or two instances during the past six months (the only ones, with a single exception, so far as my knowledge extends, in which this operation has been performed in New England), the individual, in the course of only a few days after the operation, rises some inches in height, there can be no hesitation, in the mind of one who has had facilities for observation, in regard to the utility of its employment in severe contractions in these parts, and that it is a most important, and in some cases an indispensable auxiliary to a successful treatment of these affections. But that all this should result in a cure, improvement in mechanics must accompany that of surgery ; without this aid but little can be accomplished. Of what avail is the most consummate skill of the surgeon, if his instruments are not formed of the best tempered steel ? the delicate operations of modern surgery must, in such a case, be abandoned. Idle would be his efforts, in the cases of which we have been speaking, even should he be able to procure the operative instruments, and by means of these remove the primary cause of the distortion, if he could not call mechanical means to his aid, and by the use of the ingeniously-contrived machine, and the well-adapted spring, reduce bone and muscle to their proper position.

To cite a case in point—there has recently been introduced into this

city, an apparatus for the rectification of curvatures of the spine, which is in itself an unequalled specimen of the aid which this art, combined with anatomical adaptation, can afford to surgery, in forwarding its great object; viz., the removal of those obstacles which interfere with the perfect enjoyment of health, or the supplying deficiencies in physical conformation. The plan of this beautiful and complicated piece of machinery was first imported from Paris, a few months since; from this some models were taken, and it is now but a few weeks since the first one, with the addition of some American improvements, was completed,* and it is difficult to imagine a more perfect piece of workmanship, or one more decidedly adapted to accomplish its purpose. Thus we see the two systems, mechanical and surgical, united in a fellowship so close, that in as far as the attempt is made to sunder the connection, so far do we destroy the effect of each.

PREGNANCY OCCURRING AFTER COMPLICATED ABDOMINAL AND UTERINE DISEASE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MADAME D., aged 35 years, of a nervous temperament and very active habits, became my patient Aug. 10, 1837. Her condition was as follows:—Menses regular, though slight; prolapsus uteri, with great congestion of cervix; the os tincæ within one inch of the external parts, and the cervix nearly twice its natural size. For the preceding nine years, quantities of matter had been discharged per vaginam, often daily, for months together, sometimes guttatum, and then suddenly bursting away, half a pint at a time. The first occurrence of this symptom was observed immediately after a severe labor with a first and only child, born in Paris, nine years previously. It was evident, on enclosing the cervix completely within the speculum, that this discharge did not come from the uterus. On examining the abdomen, two large tumors were discovered, one occupying the entire umbilical region, the other the right inguinal; both of these were subject to occasional enlargement and sudden subsidence, upon the appearance of a gush of matter per vaginam; there was considerable ascites. The uterus could not be felt in the pubic region, neither did it seem enlarged when examined by the finger. The occasional subsidence of the tumors led me to infer them to be the source of the matter, as I had found a very large one in a post-mortem previously made, connected with the rectum, suppurating, and daily discharging large quantities of matter. At the time of my visit the pulse was 120. Porter, with beef-tea and occasional opiates, were the constitutional treatment, and nitrate of silver was applied daily to the os tincæ, from ten to twenty grains to the ounce of water. This treatment was continued for two months; and though the matter decreased, and the cervix became much smaller, I urged the patient to name a consulting physician, in consequence of the increase of the ascites, anticipating the necessity of paracentesis.

* This apparatus was constructed for, and is now doing good service at, the Boston Orthopedic Infirmary, where they are multiplied and improved, as it is considered necessary from time to time.

Dr. Berger being called, after a minute examination, both abdominal and per speculum, he agreed to the diagnosis, but would make no addition to the treatment. The subsidence of the ascites, under the use of a pill composed of digitalis, squills, and blue pill, and the increase of the menses, induced a hope that nature would still triumph over these complicated difficulties. Indeed, so great was the amendment, under the use of nutritious diet and Lugol's solution of iodine, that I discontinued my visits at the end of the third month, the matter still continuing slightly, and the menses regular. The patient had resumed her customary household duties.

During the ensuing two months, the discharge of matter per vaginam, and the enlargement of the abdominal tumors, alternated as usual, but the fifth month from the original date of my attendance the menses did not appear. This, with morning sickness, induced the suspicion of pregnancy by the patient; yet the period was too early for any determinate opinion. I doubted this state extremely, from the evident re-appearance of ascites, and the rise of the pulse to 120. Matters continued thus till the fourth month, when the patient quickened, the movement was evident, and the cervix shortened. I found also the uterine globe enlarged, and the prolapsus gone. Notwithstanding this, the pulse still continuing at 120, and great thoracic distress accompanying the ascites, with cough greatly increased on the recumbent position, induced me again to summon a consultation. Two eminent gentlemen were called at different times between the fifth and ninth month, both of whom declared the patient not pregnant. No alteration occurred till the full period, when the patient being safely delivered of a boy of nine pounds, all her symptoms disappeared, and she is now in good health, the discharge of matter and abdominal tumors continuing. She nursed her child for one year, plentifully, but has not since proved pregnant, though the menses are regular.

New York, January, 1842.

EDWARD H. DIXON.

LITHOTRITY.

[THE following remarks on the removal of stone in the bladder by the operation of lithotrity, are the concluding part of a review of several works upon this subject in the last No. of the British and Foreign Medical Review.]

The conclusions to be drawn from these cases and these views are obviously melancholy enough in so far as lithotrity is concerned. And yet, when we reflect dispassionately and as physiologists and practitioners upon the nature of the entire process in this operation, we see it impossible that the results could have been very different from what they are. Let us only consider the immediate consequences of the successful administration of lithotrity, the searching for and seizure of the stone, the necessary violence that accompanies the act of its comminution, and its condition with reference to the bladder after having been reduced to pieces, and we perceive that in the nature of things it can be no trifling operation, that on the contrary it must needs be one fraught with much

danger to the patient. We know that the mere act of searching the bladder with a polished sound is often accompanied by a great amount of pain, and followed by what appears a singular degree of sympathetic disturbance; we know that the attempt to seize and extract small stones in the bladder by the most delicate forceps has ended fatally; and how shall the necessarily large and complicated implements of lithotriety be introduced and brought into play within the bladder without producing a hundred times the amount of excitement and of mischief? This cannot be, and is not. And then, what shall we say in regard to the jarring and violence inseparable from the process of working a drill, or of turning a screw, or of giving the whole apparatus a smart blow with a hammer? What of a stone, which with a smooth surface was already such a source of suffering as to make the possessor weary of his life, and willing to take the chance of any odds against the solitary hope of obtaining relief, either roughened by repeated perforations, or reduced perchance into eight or ten angular and ragged fragments? All we can do is to admire the powers inherent in the delicate tissues that compose the excretory portion of the uropoietic system to withstand violence, and to repair themselves, bruised and maltreated as they necessarily must be, in such an operation as lithotriety performed by the most gentle hand.

The singular increase of irritation that takes place in consequence even of the *spontaneous* breaking up of calculi in the bladder, a phenomenon which sometimes occurs, and the danger to life that ensues thereon, is strikingly illustrated by the circumstances and the issue of a case which is related by Mr. Liston. A medical man, who had labored under symptoms of stone for a great many years, and who by sounding himself had ascertained the existence of a stone in his bladder ten years previously, was one day met by Mr. Liston in consultation. In three days after this Mr. Liston was summoned to this unfortunate gentleman in a moribund state, from inflammation of the whole urinary system, his urethra being at the same time blocked up by large fragments of stone. "It appeared," says Mr. Liston, "that on parting with me he had been summoned to an urgent case of labor. He ran quickly down a steep street, and at the bottom of it was seized with an urgent desire to make water, which he did in small quantity mixed with much blood. He passed some pieces of stone with sharp angles. He went on from bad to worse; he had retention, and the urethra was found much obstructed; suppression followed, and death terminated his sufferings in a few days. Many portions of the calculus were voided; much stone with the nucleus occupied the bladder and urinary passage. The kidneys were dark colored, and one approached to a gangrenous state."

Now it is the business of lithotriety by a certain amount of mechanical violence, less or more, to accomplish such a disruption of a calculus as took place here spontaneously; and our amazement finally comes to be, how the operation should ever succeed, not that it should so often be found either impracticable, or, if persevered in, fatal. And this leads us immediately to consider the circumstances in which the operation is admissible, and those in which it is inadmissible. This point is soon discussed; the conclusion lies on the surface, and wants no farther fact or

argument, after what has been said, to make it clear. Lithotripsy is admissible and only admissible in cases in which the bladder is perfectly healthy, and in which the stone is small, of the size of a filbert, a shelled almond, or it may be a nutmeg at the most; under all other circumstances it ought to be held impracticable. In other words, lithotripsy is admissible where it is estimated that the stone can at one sitting be seized and reduced to fragments of sufficient minuteness to be passed by the urethra. No second, certainly no third operation ought ever to be contemplated. *If the patient who has had lithotripsy performed upon him is not relieved at once, he is in imminent danger of losing his life.*

Lithotripsy may now fairly be said to have been tried and found wanting as a general means of relief for stone. Restricted to the circumstances indicated above, it is a great addition to our surgical therapeutics; applied indiscriminately, and as a substitute for lithotomy and all other means of treating stone in the bladder, it is a most fatal present made to humanity.

ACIDS IN DYSENTERY.

DR. J. YOUNG, of Chester, Delaware county, has communicated to us, says the Editor of the American Journal of Medical Sciences, some observations on the treatment of dysentery by acids. "The following cases," he remarks, "will serve to illustrate the course of practice I have pursued for more than a dozen years, and with uniform success."

"In the autumn of 1823, I was requested to see Mrs. S. Found her in bed, with much fever, headache, full, bounding pulse, severe tormina, tenesmus, needings very frequent, and evacuations scanty, and consisting of nothing but bloody mucus; considerable tenderness of abdomen, urgent thirst, entire loss of appetite, tongue slightly coated, and presenting altogether a very severe case of dysentery. It was the fourth day of the disease, and she had taken nothing at all of medicine kind. I urged bleeding, but her objection to it was insuperable; prescribed medicine to be given, and left her. Next morning on visiting her, found she had not taken her medicine, nor could all my entreaties prevail on her to take it then, but she promised to take it "after a while:" next visit found the same state of things with respect to taking anything; and in short she absolutely refused to take medicine of any description, or to drink anything but cold water until the twelfth day of her disease, when she had become too weak to get up without assistance; all her diseased symptoms had progressed during this time, and it was evident she could not live much longer without relief—still she resisted every kind of medicine. Having known butter-milk used with apparent advantage in some cases previously, I stated to the family what must evidently be the result, unless relief was procured ere long, by some means, and suggested the trial of it. She was delighted with it, and was ordered to gratify her inclination for drink, by copious draughts. Next morning on visiting her, to my surprise I found a great change for the better. The needings were much less frequent; had rested tolerably well during the night; the tormina, tenesmus, tenderness of ab-

domen, and bloody mucous evacuations, were all greatly diminished. On inquiry, I learned that she had drank a *gallon or more* of the article since yesterday. She was ordered to continue drinking freely, and on my visit next morning, I found her so entirely relieved as to discontinue my visits, leaving a request to be sent for if necessary. In a few days she was well enough to leave her bed, and her chamber, and is yet a hearty woman.

"This case made a strong impression on my mind, and in numerous instances since, it is the only article I have ordered; particularly in children, who generally are fond of it, and have an aversion to medicine.

"In August, 1834, I was requested to take charge of two little boys in the same family, one aged nine, the other between seven and eight, who were sick with dysentery, and had been under the care of a neighboring physician for seven days, but whom circumstances prevented attending longer. They were both severe cases. On taking charge of them I recommended only, fomentations to the abdomen, morphine one tenth of a grain *pro re nata*, to relieve the violence of the pain and straining, and to drink freely of buttermilk, 'the more freely the better.'

"Next morning one of them not relishing it for drink, had used but a small quantity; he was ordered the same as yesterday, but to drink a solution of cremor tartar, sweetened if wished. The other was fond of his drink, had drank freely; had taken two portions of morphine, was somewhat better; still his needings were frequent, but *sometimes* the evacuations were less painful, and less bloody and slimy—ordered to continue as directed before. These were the only articles prescribed for this little fellow, and on my fourth visit, all appearance of dysentery was gone. In a few days he was up and well. His brother did not recover so soon. He drank of the cremor tartar solution, but not freely enough to produce any action on the bowels; accordingly on my third visit, in addition to the former prescription, oleaginous mixture was ordered, in doses of a table-spoonful every three or four hours, according to its effects. After this, his dysenteric symptoms gradually yielded; so that on the day of my seventh visit he was dismissed cured.

"This, then, is the general course pursued; sometimes in addition to these means, I order calomel, ipecac. and opium, every two or three hours; sometimes, too, an emetic, or a mercurial cathartic, or both are premised, and sometimes lemonade, or vinegar and water, or some milk, are ordered for drink, where they are preferred. But these constitute the whole of the articles I use in the treatment of this disease; and the facility with which it yields to such simple means has often been a matter of surprise to myself. The objects kept constantly in view, are to remove constipation by the mildest possible means, to allay irritation and pains by morphine, or opium (the former being always preferred, when at hand, because it is less constipating), and fomentations; and to remove the *alkaline* state of the contents of the bowels, by acids in the form of drink.

"Perhaps in some other localities, these means may not be attended with the same beneficial results that I have in *every case* found them produce; but such has been my success, practising on these views, and using these means, that I am emboldened to recommend them to others, believing that if acted upon in good faith, they will save him who tries them many

anxious hours, by enabling him to cure his patients, before the disease progresses to inflammation, and gangrenous erosions of the intestines ; a state of things that will doubtless arrive in time ; but which is believed to be mostly the result, not so much of the necessities of the case itself, as of the erroneous pathology, and consequent treatment, generally taught and pursued in the management in its earlier stages."

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MISSIONARY PHYSICIANS.

PRESUMING that it may be welcome intelligence to many of the profession through the United States, to know the locations of some of those who were their associates in the days of their pupilage, we have collected the names and places of residence of the medical missionaries now in the service of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Letters to any of the individuals in the following catalogue, sent to the Mission House, Pemberton square, Boston, will be forwarded to them by the earliest conveyance. Dr. Newton Adams resides at Umlazi, near Port Natal, Africa ; Alexander E. Wilson, M.D., Fishtown, ten miles west of Fair Hope, Africa ; C. V. A. Van Dyck, M.D., at Deir el Kamer, among the Druses, Syria ; Austin H. Wright, M.D., at Ooroomiah, in Persia ; Asahel Grant, M.D., resides among the Independent Nestorians, Persia ; John Scudder, M.D., at Chintadrepellah, Southern India ; John Steele, M.D., Madura, Southern India ; Nathan Ward, M.D., Batticotta, Ceylon Mission ; Dan B. Bradley, M.D., Bangkok, Kingdom of Siam ; Peter Parker, M.D., stationed at Macao, China, but now in America ; Dyer Ball, M.D., Singapore, Indian Archipelago ; Seth L. Andrews, M.D., at Kailua, Hawaii Island (Sand. Islands) ; Dwight Baldwin, M.D., Lahaina, Maui Island ; Gerrit P. Judd, M.D., Honolulu, Island of Oahu ; Dr. Roderick L. Dodge, resides at Dwight, among the Cherokee Indians ; Dr. Elizur Butler, at Fairfield, among the same tribe ; Dr. Marcus Whitman, resides at Wailaptu, among the Oregon Indians ; and Dr. Thomas Williamson, resides at Lac qui Parle, with the Sioux Indians. These men lead lives of ceaseless care, where the progress of civilization has scarcely been felt, and where their deprivations and wants can hardly be estimated by those who are pursuing their professional business in a well-regulated, Christian community, in which there is both personal safety and social happiness.

Insane Hospital in the State of Maine.—Last season the superintendent of this Institution was a Dr. C. Knapp, who has unaccountably disappeared, without any public explanation of the why or wherefore. When a traveller told an inquisitive by-stander that he would inform him how he lost his leg, provided that no more troublesome questions should be asked, the latter instantly agreed to the proposition. "Well, sir," said the traveller, "it was bitten off." "Notwithstanding my promise," exclaimed the marvel-struck interrogator, "I should like to know what ani-

mal could have bitten off a man's leg." Although fully aware of the fact that the late Superintendent has been superseded, it would be quite gratifying to know how, and for what cause, this has been brought about? The successor of Dr. Knapp is Dr. Isaac Ray, a gentleman whose name and whose writings have been favorably known to the medical as well as legal profession of this country. Those who have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him, speak in unqualified terms of commendation. Of his scientific and intellectual attainments, there cannot be a shadow of doubt. If he possesses those many necessary moral qualities of the heart which fit a man to assume the high responsibilities of a manager of the insane, in combination with all other desirable educational preparations, the people of Maine are fortunate in the choice.

The expenses of the Hospital last year, for provisions, fuel, lights, improvements, medical supplies, &c., amounted to \$9,928 69. Economy appears to be practised in all departments, and yet everything necessary or even remotely conducive to the comfort of the patients is generously provided. According to Dr. Ray's report, the whole number of patients in the course of 1841, was 133. The greatest number at any one time was 70; and the smallest at any period, 28. There were 2 deaths by consumption; 2 by apoplexy; 1 by diarrhoea; and 1 from exhaustion, produced by profuse bleeding before admission. In all that part of the report which the Superintendent devotes to the consideration of insanity in general, we discover the evidence of a disciplined mind and a just estimate of the misfortune of being deprived of reason. He philosophizes within the scope of ordinary comprehension, which is more than can be said of very many who make pretensions to learning. Just as are his observations on the moral means of treating lunatics, there is perhaps a little too much of it; it bears some resemblance to a methodical dissertation, which would be well enough if no one else had ever promulgated the same sentiments in relation to the same great object. In future, when Dr. Ray has become accustomed to the place, and the place to him, we venture to predict, from what is discoverable in this report of the character of his mind, that he will become a prominent writer on insanity. We hope the Legislature of Maine will generously assist him in all his efforts to sustain and elevate the Institution over which he has been elected to preside.

Malpractice in Surgery.—It is extensively known that a prosecution was commenced about nine years ago against Dr. M. F. Colby, of Stanstead, L. C., a skilful surgeon, by William Nelson, of Derby, Vt., for malpractice in the treatment of his wife, who sought advice of Dr. C. respecting an injured hip, which was either severely contused, or the neck of the bone broken off within the capsule. So much has been said and written on the subject, and the case has been so frequently before the Court of Common Pleas, at Irasburg, and such wide-spread notoriety given to the parties, that it would be exceedingly gratifying and useful, if a condensed history could be prepared for this Journal. Perhaps Dr. Dexter, of Lancaster, may find leisure. As we have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with that gentleman, we should have great confidence in his relation. From Dr. Colby a report would be better still, since he is a man of honor and acknowledged professional attainments.

India Medical News.—A medical college, some time since proposed to be erected at Bombay, in honor of the late Sir Robert Grant, has been

sanctioned by the Court of Directors, and they have granted a sum to aid in the erection, which is calculated to cost one lac of rupees.—The celebrated Dr. C'Shaughnessy, identified with everything scientific in India, is about publishing a volume of notes to lectures on natural philosophy.—Lord Auckland, the Gov. General, delivered, in person, the prizes awarded to the students of the Medical College.—Dr. Cantor, author of various scientific papers on natural history, who was designed to be naturalist to the China expedition, but who was unfortunately cheated out of an honor which was intended by those who had the power of conferring the appointment, is only 28 years of age. He went to Chusan, however, in the humble capacity of assistant surgeon of a regiment of foot. For the Court of Directors he made a splendid collection of drawings. He has a large head, and the public sentiment seems to be that he is destined to become very distinguished.—F. H. Brett, Esq., has been giving lectures at the Mechanic's Institution on the mechanism of the eye and the phenomena of vision. Some of the drawings used by him for illustrating the subject, are very fine.—At Cuttuck the cholera was raging most fearfully. An officer says that in the town where he resides, the deaths were more than one hundred a day. The dawk road, between Burdwan and Bancoorah, was covered with dead bodies, chiefly Gya pilgrims. In April last the same disease raged violently at Calcutta, which is now healthful. At Hararubaug, for some time, the average number of men in the Hospital had been one hundred, yet the mortality has not been great, owing to the devoted attention of the medical attendants. It has evidently been sickly in nearly all the Company's possessions, during the last year.—The celebrated surgeon, F. H. Brett, Esq., of Calcutta, a notice of whose recently-published work on India Surgery was given in this Journal within a few months, between the years 1827 and 1840 cut for the stone on 108 persons; of this number 70 were under puberty and 38 were adults—101 were cured, and only 7 died! This equals the success of Dr. Dudley, of Lexington, Ky., reputed the most fortunate lithotomist in America. Mr. Brett's father had twenty-two children, ten of whom arrived at mature age. The great India surgeon was born in London, where he studied his profession, and went to India in 1825. He is now but 38 years of age, with a family of nine children. Much is said about the re-establishment of a central hospital, with a view to having the Governor-general appoint this able man to a post where the pupils of the Medical College can avail themselves of his lectures. Mr. Brett and Dr. Parker, late missionary surgeon at Canton, from all we can gather, are the boldest and most decidedly successful operators in that part of the world.

Mortality of Stamford, Conn.—Dr. Ayres furnishes the following statistics of mortality for that town, in 1841. The population is assumed to be 3000.

Between the ages 80 and 90, 4; 70 and 80, 5; 60 and 70, 5; 50 and 60, 3; 40 and 50, 2; 30 and 40, 3; 20 and 30, 7; 10 and 20, 5; 10, 9. Total, 41.—Diseases—consumption, 7; lung fever, 3; hives, 2; fits, 5; apoplexy, 2; bilious remittent fever, 3; brain fever, 2; cholera infantum, 3; jaundice, 1; dropsy, 4; spine complaint, 1; inflammation of the liver, 1; puerperal fever, 1; poison, 1; found dead, 1; old age, 5; unknown, 3.

Mortality in Boscawen, N. H., 1841.—Number of deaths, 29—males, 11; females, 18. Died in January, 3; February, 1; March, 5; April, 2; May, 1; June, 2; July, 1; August, 4; September, 2; October, 2; November, 4; December, 2. Amount of years of the deceased, 969. Average age about 33½ years. Proportion to the whole population, 1 to 68 nearly. Diseases.—Fever, 12; consumption, 4; fits, 3; paralysis, 2; old age, 1; general debility, 1; drowned, 1; croup, 1; singular affection of the heart, 1; inflammation of the bowels, 1; dropsy, 1; influenza, 1.

Riotous Medical Students.—From the correspondent of a New York paper, it appears that a Thomsonian physician, belonging to Boston, was greatly annoyed and interrupted in an attempt to deliver a public lecture on the kind of doctrine he advocates, at Charleston, S. C., a short time since. The medical students attending lectures at the school of medicine in that city, are represented to have conducted in such a manner that the civil authority was obliged to interfere in order to maintain the peace. That one act of indiscretion will do more towards extending the name and influence of steam, lobelia and cayenne pepper in South Carolina, than a regiment of convert-making Thomsonian lecturers could have accomplished in ten years. Persecution invariably begets a sympathy for the oppressed.

Operation for Stammering.—This new operation of the celebrated Dieffenbach, so popular here a few months since, says our correspondent at Paris, has now fallen entirely into disrepute. Failures were so numerous that the operation is universally considered to be unjustifiable. We have seen it performed by the most skilful surgeons of this metropolis without any success.

Epidemic Scarlet Fever.—From the papers we learn that scarlatina is not only extensively prevalent in many parts of Rhode Island, but is also marked by a fatality that very much alarms the people in those places where it has become epidemic. In some towns in New Hampshire this disease has made a melancholy inroad upon families—carrying off small children in great numbers, and even occasionally attacking adults.

New Medical Appointments in the U. S. Navy.—Assistant Surgeon A. J. Wedderburn has been passed for promotion. Drs. Morris B. Beck, of Virginia; J. Francis Tuckerman, of Massachusetts; Lewis J. Williams, of North Carolina; and Marius Duvall, of Maryland, having passed a successful examination before the Board of Naval Surgeons, at a recent meeting in Philadelphia, will be, if they have not been already, commissioned Assistant Surgeons in the naval service.

Chelsea Hospital.—Number of sick or disabled seamen who were received the last quarter, ending December 31, 145. Number in the Hospital, October 31, 53. Number discharged as cured or relieved, 141. Died during the quarter, 7. Patients remaining, December 31, 1841, 40.

Application of the Subcutaneous Method to the Operation for Strangulated Hernia. By M. JULES GUERIN.—In this case the hernia was a congenital epiplocele which had been strangulated for three days. The usual means of reduction had been applied, and the tumor had become hard, engorged, and the seat of commencing inflammatory action. After division of the two rings and of the antero-superior wall of the inguinal canal, the reduction was immediately effected. The wound did not inflame, nor did the slightest febrile symptoms follow. The patient was able to rise on the eighth day, taking care to wear a bandage.—*British and Foreign Medical Review, from Gaz. Med. de Paris.*

Medical Miscellany.—No. IV. of the Guardian of Health is received. Where are Nos. II. and III. ? *Apothecaries and the Public*, is a good paper, commending itself to all thinking people. The same paper warns its readers against mineral amalgams for filling decayed teeth. Beware of cheap dentistry, is the word.—Surgeon D. Egbert, of the Navy, is ordered to rendezvous at Kensington.—The venerable Dr. Seeger, of Northampton, a German by birth and education, a cotemporary, it is believed, with the celebrated Hahnemann, is writing vigorously against homœopathy.—Samuel Trull, M.D., and W. N. Boylston, M.D., have received the appointment of physicians to the Boston Dispensary.—Dr. Cabot, a young physician of Boston, is with Messrs. Stevens and Catherwood, at the ruins of Uxmal.—Dr. Dix, of this city, will be at Dr. Jones's Hospital, Springfield, Mass., February 2d, to perform the operation of strabismus.—In Newport, R. I., of a population of 8333, are 34 persons over 70 years of age. The eldest is 96; the average age is over 80, and the united ages amount to 2724 years.—Peter Wendell, M.D., of Albany, has been chosen Chancellor of the New York University, by the Regents.—M. A. Boucherie, M.D., is the name of the author of a memoir on the preservation of timber, now attracting the attention of nearly all the governments of Europe, at all interested in naval architecture.—Thomas P. Jones, M.D., editor of the Journal of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, sustains that useful Journal with success and ability.—At the Island of Jamaica the scarlet fever was still prevailing at the latest dates—unknown there before for upwards of ninety years. The fatal disease was introduced there the present season by some European emigrants.—Dr. Brown has lectured acceptably in New York on the pathology of intemperance—and is to be followed by Dr. Horace Green, late of the Vermont Medical Academy, on the same topic. Dr. Marsh, of Burlington, Vt., has recently distinguished himself in the same department of humanity.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. North's papers are received, but as they must necessarily occupy more than one No., they will be reserved till the commencement of the new volume.

MARRIED.—At Baltimore, Ohio, Dr. Ass Hor, to Miss E. Sherman.

DIED.—At New York, Jonathan H. Mansell, M.D., 36.—Near Davidson, N. C., Dr. White—drowned in attempting to ford a stream.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Jan. 22, 40.—Males, 16; Females, 24. Stillborn, 1. Of consumption, 5—child-bed, 3—scarlet fever, 6—croup, 3—inflammation of the brain, 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of the heart, 1—infantile, 3—diarrhea, 1—pleurisy, 1—lung fever, 4—measles, 1—fits, 1—apoplexy, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—dropsy in the head, 1—old age, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—erysipelas, 1—bronchitis, 1.

CASTLETON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE annual Lectures in the Castleton Medical College, late Vermont Academy of Medicine, will be commenced on the second Tuesday, 8th of March, 1842, and be continued fourteen weeks.

General, Special and Surgical Anatomy, by JAMES MCCLINTOCK, M.D.
 Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Obstetrics, by JOSEPH PERKINS, M.D.
 Principles and Practice of Surgery, by FRANK H. HAMILTON, M.D.
 Theory and Practice of Medicine, by DAVID M. REESE, M.D.
 Physiology, General Pathology, and Operative Obstetrics, by CHAUNCEY L. MITCHELL, M.D.
 Chemistry and Pharmacy, by WILLIAM MATHER, M.D.
 Ophthalmic Anatomy and Surgery, by WILLIAM C. WALLACE, M.D.
 Medical Jurisprudence, by WILLIAM P. RUSSELL, M.D.
 Demonstrator of Anatomy, EGBERT JAMIESON, M.D.

Fees for the course, \$55. Matriculating fee, \$5. Fee for those who have attended two full courses at other regular medical institutions, \$10. Expense of boarding, &c. \$1.50 to \$2.25.

In the last course a number of surgical operations were performed before the class; there is every reason to believe that the number of such cases will be much greater during the next term.

Castleton, Vt., Jan. 3, 1842.

J. 12.—2m

JOSEPH PERKINS, Registrar.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

CENSORS' MEETING.—There will be a meeting of the Censors for the First District and for the Society on Wednesday, the 26th day of January, 1842, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at the house of the subscriber, No. 9 Franklin place.

Boston, Dec. 27, 1841.

Jan 5—tm

JOHN JEFFRIES, Secretary of Censors.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 14th day of February, 1842, and continue three months.

Anatomy and Surgery, by - - - - - JOSEPH ROBY, M.D.
 Theory and Practice of Physic, by - - - - - WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D.
 Obstetrics, by - - - - - EBENEZER WELLS, M.D.
 Chemistry and Materia Medica, by - - - - - PARKER CLEVELAND, M.D.

The Library contains about 3000 vols. principally modern works.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required previously to present satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the Lectures is \$50, payable in advance. Graduation fee, \$10.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the Lecture Term in May, and at the following Commencement of the College in September.

Brunswick, October, 1841.

D. 8—eop6t

PARKER CLEVELAND, Secretary.

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE subscribers, at their rooms in Tremont street, continue to give personal instruction to private pupils as heretofore, in the various branches of medicine, in connection with the practical pursuit of anatomy, and attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the other opportunities belonging to their school.

Jy 28—eoply

JACOB BIGELOW,
 EDWARD REYNOLDS,
 D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
 OLIVER W. HOLMES.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

A COMPLETE assortment of Surgical and Dental Instruments, English and American—for sale low, by BREWERS, STEVENS & CUSHING, 90 and 92 Washington street.

D. 29—3m

UTERO-ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

THE subscriber having moved from No. 16 Howard street to No. 3 Winter street, would inform medical gentlemen that he still continues to manufacture his improved "CHAPIN'S Abdominal Supporter," and they can be furnished with this instrument (which has been found so useful in cases of prolapsus uteri, abdominal and dorsal weaknesses, as well as in cases of prolapsus ani), from \$2.50 to \$7.00, according to the finish. Perineum straps (extra) at 75 cts. to \$1.00. The measure of the patients to be taken around the pelvis in inches.

Reference may be had to the following physicians in Boston, among others, who recommend this instrument.—Drs. John C. Warren, J. Randall, W. Channing, Geo. Hayward, J. Ware, E. Reynolds, Jr., J. Jeffries, G. B. Doane, J. V. C. Smith, W. Lewis, Jr., J. Homans, J. Mason Warren, &c.

The supporter, with printed instructions for applying the same, will be furnished and exchanged until suitably fitted, by application personally, or by letter, to

No. 3 Winter, corner of Washington st., Boston.

The above may also be obtained of Messrs. James Green & Co., Worcester; G. H. Carleton & Co., Lowell; Joshua Durgin & Co., Portland, Me.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THERE will be a Stated Meeting of the Counsellors of this Society at their room, Masonic Temple on Wednesday, the second day of February, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

J. 19—tm

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.

Recording Secretary.

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